

320.6.4 (673.5)



1553
IAMES by the grace of God, King of England, Scotland, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, &c. To all and singular Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deanes and their Officials, Parsons, Vicars, Curates, and to all spirituall persons. And also to all Justices of Peace, Maiors, Sherifffs, Bayliffes, Confables, Church-wardens, and Headborroughes. And to all Officers of Cities, Boroughes, and Townes Corporate. And to all other our Officers, Ministers, and Subiects whatsoeuer they bee a swell within Liberties as without, to whom these Presents shall come, greeting.

Whereas We are credibly giuen to understand a swell by the humble Supplication and Petition of one Religious *Philotheos* a Gre-
cian, and Procurator generall of the Couent of the holy Croſſe of Golgotha in Ierusalem, ſituate in the very ſame place where our Sa-
uiour dyed vpon the Croſſe for our Redēption, as also by other ſufficient teſtimonie. That in the foſeaid moſt ſacred and hoſt Place,
that euer renowned and famous Saint HELEN, out of her extraordinary zeale and deuotion vnto our bleſſed Sauiour, builte a moſt
rich and ſumptuous Monaſterie and Temple, the which (not without great iniurie and diſhonour to Christian Religion) the Turkes
would haue made a Meſquit of *Mahomet*, for which cauſe the Religious of the foſeaid Monaſterie were forced to promife the pay-
ment of three thouſand crownes yearely to the great Turke, that onely they might haue libertie to celebraſe diuine Seruice in that
ſacred place, where the preſious bloud of Chrift was ſhed, the Turkes hauing depriv'd them of the Rents thereunto appertayning,
and which heretofore they did poſſeſſe, wherfore being perſwaded that al Christian Kings and Princes which beleeue that CHRIST
Iesus dyed in the afoſeaid place, to be bound in charitie to ſuccour with their giſts and almes the foſeaid Religious men there re-
ſiding, eſpecially in regard they are ingaged to pay ſixe thouſand crownes to ſee from death thirteene of the ſaid Religious men,
which were condenmed to death vniuſtly, and in the deſence of the hoſt Faith of Iesus Christ, by theſe barbarous Infidels,
as is maniſt by euident teſtimonie, who not hauing wherewith to pay downe the ſaid ſixe thouſand crownes, were conſtrayned to
undertake the payment of fifteene in the hundred yearely for ierett, vntill the principall money bee paid, to which end the King of
Spane hath alreade ſent his Royall almes. Therefore the ſaid Religious *Philotheos* hath moſt humbly beſought Vs, that of Our Prince-
ly fauour, and bountie in a matter of ſo great a conſequenee, We would be pleaſed for the better maſteneance of the ſaid Temple, and
preſeruing the ſame from the barbarous Infidels, and for the redēption of the ſaid thirteene Religious men, to afford them ſuch re-
liefe as to oþers hath beene granted by way of a Collection of the charitie of weþ disposed persons aſwell within Our Citi of Lon-
don as in certayne Counties in this Our Realme, vnto whose reuert (Wee being moued with a Princeley and pious commiſſeration to-
wards the poore Christians in that place reſiding, and for the preſeruation of thole ancient monuments which yet remayne in the place
of our Redēption, from the hands of Infidels, haue thought fit to condeſſe vnto as a matter well beſeeming Vs, being determined
to contribute Our Princeley almes to the ſame end and purpoſe Our ſelue: Not doubting but that all good Chritians vpon the due con-
ſideration of the premisses, will be ready and willing, and the rather for Our commendation hereof, and Our owne example herein, to
extend their liberal contributions towards the furtherance of ſo good a worke.

Know yee therefore, That of Our eſpeciall Grace, and Princeley compassion, Wee haue giuen and granted, and by theſe Our Let-
ters Patents doe giue and grant vnto the ſaid Religious *Philotheos*, on the behalfe of the foſeaid Couent and to his Deputie and De-
puties the Bearer or Bearers hereof, full power, licence and authoritie, to aske, gather, receiue and take the almes and charitable
beneuolence of all Our louing Subiects whatſoever, inhabiting within our Counties of Wilts, Leceſter and Buckingham, with
our Cities of Salisburie, and in all other Cities, Townes Corporate, Priuiledged places, Parishes, Villages, and in all other places
whatſoever, within our ſaid Counties and not elsewhere, for and towards the payments aboue mentioned, and the relieve and ma-
ſteneance of the foſeaid place, and the poore Chritians therein reſiding.

Wherefore, Wee will and command you and every of you, that at ſuch time and times as the ſaid Religious *Philotheos* or his De-
putie or Deputies, the Bearer or Bearers hereof, ſhall come and repaire vnto any your Churcheſ, Chappells, or other places, to aske
and receiue the gratuities and charitable beneuolence of Our ſaid Subiects, quietly to permit and ſuffer them ſo to doe, without any
manner your lets or contradictions. And you the ſaid Parsons, Vicars, and Curates, for the better ſtirring vp of a charitable
deliberately to publith and declare the Tenor of theſe Our Letters Patents, vnto Our ſaid Subiects in your Parish Churche, in your
Pulpits vpon the next Sabbath day after your receipt thereof, and that no other Collection bee made on the ſame day for any o-
ther person, exhorting and perſwading them to extend their liberal contributions in ſo pious and Religious a worke. And you the
Church-wardens of euerie Parish where ſuch Collections are to be made as aforefaid, carefully to collect and gather from ſeate to
ſeate, the almes and charitable beneuolence of all Our louing Subiects aſwel Strangers as oþers, and ſuch as are abſent from Churche
to repaire to their houses for their beneuolence. And what ſhall be by you ſo gathered to be by the Minister and your ſelues, first ſet
downe in words at length and not in Figures in a white paper booke, which ſhall be tendered vnto you by the ſaid Religious *Phi-
lotheos* or his Deputie or Deputies, the Bearer or Bearers hereof, being ſubſcribed with the hand of the ſaid Reuerend Father in God
the Lord Bishop of London, and afterwards to endorse the ſame vpon the back ſide of theſe Our Letters Patents, or the Copie or
Briefe thereof, and the ſumme and ſummes of money ſo gathered and endorsed, to deliuer to the ſaid Religious *Philotheos* or his De-
putie or Deputies, the Bearer or Bearers of theſe our Letters Patents, and to no other Person when as thereto you ſhall be requi-
red: Any Statute, Law, Ordinance, or Prouiſion heretofore made to the contraire in any wife notwithstanding.

In witnessſe whereof Wee haue cauſed theſe Our Letters to bee made Patents for the ſpace of one whole yeare next after the date
hereof to endure. Witneſſe Our ſelue at Westminſter the thirteenth day of October, in the nineteenth yeare of Our raigne of Eng-
land, France, and Ireland, and of Scotland the ſive and fiftieth.

STEWARD.

God ſave the King.